

Fearsome as we are of an avalanche of freak laws, and the usual attempts to cripple the leading industries of the state, we will give this legislature the benefit of the doubt in advance in the hope that it will prove safe and sane, and attempt to make a constructive rather than a destructive record.

There is no lack of opportunity for some real legislation that will materially benefit the state, but if the majority overlook it and follow the precedent of waste of time and money, the members will face such mistrust, and impatience as has no legislative gathering in years.

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THE BADGER BANKS.

ASIDE from numerous conferences, the outcome of which has not been made public, as well as more or less semi-official investigating, nothing of a startling nature respecting the failure of the Bingham banks has come to light during the past few days.

Depositors in the Citizens' Bank of Bingham are anxiously awaiting information as to whether or not the Utah State National Bank will be held responsible for various loans made by its former vice-president of money sent to him by the Bingham bank, and if so when it will make good.

They are awaiting the return of the governor, for naturally the matter will be passed up to him. From all information obtainable, we believe that the Utah State National will be obliged to put up the money, and in that event the Citizen's depositors will lose little or nothing.

The daily papers are doing nothing whatever to enlighten the public in regard to the situation, and though authentic news is somewhat scarce, we believe that we will shortly be in a position to acquire enough more authoritative information to make some very interesting reading.

In the meantime the plot thickens, and it looks a little cloudy in the west for those who were responsible for the wreck.

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MERCHANTS' BANK INVESTIGATION.

THE grand jury investigating the affairs of the defunct Merchants' Bank has returned several indictments, and in this connection, it is well to bear in mind that an indictment does not necessarily mean that whoever may be indicted is guilty.

If indictments are returned, those indicted will have a fair trial, there will be no hasty judgments or conclusions, and the public should reserve decision pending the handling of the matter by the courts.

For the sake of argument, admitting that none of the men involved is guilty of anything criminal, they are morally responsible to the depositors, who expect nothing more than a square deal and as nearly a satisfactory settlement as is possible under the circumstances.

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OUTLOOK FOR BUILDING GOOD.

THE prospects for the lumber industry and the building trades for 1919 are better than at any time the past year.

All over the country comes news of increased building activities as restrictions are removed.

Industrial and residence building programs for the coming year will take an increasing demand for lumber.

The movement will be slower in the small towns and cities and the country than in the large centers of industry.

Labor will be more plentiful as it returns from the shipyards and munition works and will have to be employed.

It is doubtful if lumber and building material will be any cheaper, but building hardware and metal will come down.

Good building lots are certain to advance in price and with foreign demand for lumber opening up it will not fall in value.

It is a patriotic duty for all who plan business or residence building in 1919 to make immediate preparations.

It will help keep the city and country prosperous and that is the best guaranty for industries and encouragement to returning fighting men.

OILY POLITICS.

SINCE 1909, the oil industry of the nation has been at the mercy of political bickering of so-called conservationists and socialistically inclined politicians. No thanks are due these gentlemen that the U. S. has been able to secure the abnormal oil supplies so necessary for industrial and military purposes.

Even the war failed to break the strangle hold of so-called conservationists, on the oil industry and in the face of a growing monthly oil shortage additional lands showing indications of oil have been withdrawn from development in Wyoming and other states while no relief has been granted to operators with capital invested in good faith on lands before withdrawal.

We face the reconstruction period with its increasing demand for all kinds of oil supplies, with the oil land question still unsettled.

Our present oil fields are being exhausted and new development is discouraged.

Surely we have legislators in congress with brains enough to draft legislation which will permit development while at the same time protecting the public interest.

Economical and needed development is true conservation.

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CLASS LEGISLATION.

TAX everybody to give special benefits to particular classes, seems to be the political fad of the hour.

Make everybody pay higher freight to double the wages of the railroad brotherhoods.

Tax everybody to pay the telephone or telegraph bill of someone else so politicians can make rates and play politics.

Tax everybody for state-owned mills, elevators, stockyards and packing plants to enrich the farmers.

Anything you don't like have the government take it over, (so long as it isn't your business), and furnish some class a service at a higher or lower price as best suits the case and let the customer or the taxpayer pay the bill.

Cannot fair-minded and uncorrupted Americans unmask these policies of paternalism?

Where will this system stop?

Shall the American republic go down under class legislation or will it stand for fair play and justice and a square deal for all?

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FERRIS WHEELS.

RUMOR has it that Scott Ferris, of Oklahoma, was the man who induced the president to issue his partisan appeal for election of a Democratic Congress. If so, it is not the first time Ferris has led the president into unwise utterances. Ferris is Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Committee and also Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands. It was he who fought that portion of the water bill which provided the plan under which the government might retake possession of water power plants constructed under license from the government. At his instance the president wrote a letter to Chairman Sims, of the Water Power Committee, denouncing the plan, and making statements which did not accord with the facts. The house passed the bill including the provisions to which Ferris and the president took exceptions. The leading Democrats of the house refused to follow the president. It is easy to believe, therefore, that Ferris led the president into his latest blunder.

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During the height of the "flu" epidemic it is said that everybody in San Francisco was compelled to wear a gauze mask on the street or anywhere that they came in close proximity to other people. Outside of the hospitals the only place in Salt Lake that such a rule was enforced was on the floor of the Salt Lake Stock and Mining Exchange. The State Board of Health declined to run any chances with that aggregation, presumably determined that the brokers, with little to do in their regular calling, should not "slip anything over" on each other.